

May 7, 2009

Dear **AP Language and Composition** Student,

Congratulations for enrolling in this advanced class. Although you are required to read two books this summer, we think you will find it challenging as well as an appropriate introduction to our course, which focuses on the uses of language.

In preparation for your English class next year, we want you to read *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* by Mark Twain and the *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, an American Slave*, by Frederick Douglass. We recommend that you buy your own copies, so you can highlight important passages and ideas. Check out used bookstores for copies, or if you prefer, Borders North will have the books for you. Both are also available in our library, and you may check them out before you leave at the end of the year.

Most of you read Huck Finn at the end of your sophomore year, and since we begin class in August with this text, we want you to re-read it carefully and trace the satire in various episodes. As a reminder, satire is the deliberate use of humor for a serious purpose, usually moral, with the purpose to reform some aspect of society. Satirists (like Twain) have specific literary techniques at their disposal, which in AP Language, we learn to identify. The worksheet on the Doherty website lists those techniques and asks you to identify them in specific passages. In addition to the written assignment for Huck Finn, you must keep a journal for your reading in Douglass's narrative. I have attached a list of expectations for the journals. Please write legibly. The journals will serve to springboard our discussions and group work.

To help you avoid procrastination, your satire worksheets on HF are due no later than July 18, 2009. Journals for the narrative are due the first day of class. Please drop off the satire worksheets in the main office at the school, or mail them to **Mrs. Montague Doherty High School, 4515 Barnes Road, Colorado Springs CO 80917.**

For you to remain in the class in the fall, you must satisfactorily complete the summer assignment, and receive at least a 75% on the written work, which must be turned in by the due date(s). You absolutely may not take this class if you do not fulfill the summer requirements!

If you don't think you will complete the summer assignment, please see your counselor and drop the class now. If you have any questions about the assignment, or the course in general, please feel free to stop by and see Mrs. Montague in the English offices. Or call me: 328-6511.

Please remember that this course requires out of class work and time constraints. If you are enrolled in several honors classes, participate in extracurricular activities and sports, and are involved in out-of-school activities, the expectation is that you will learn to budget your time.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Montague and Mrs. Pierce

AP Language and Composition Instructors